

the Memorial  Tournament

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**May 7, 2009**



Media Contact: Tom Sprouse  
5760 Memorial Drive • Dublin, OH 43017  
(Ph) 614.889.6791 • (F) 614.889.6026  
E-mail: [tsprouse@thememorialtournament.com](mailto:tsprouse@thememorialtournament.com)

## **CHARITY AND COMMUNITY ARE BIG WINNERS AT THE MEMORIAL TOURNAMENT**

**Dublin, Ohio – May 7, 2009** - Jack Nicklaus has long been a proponent of giving back, and he and his wife, Barbara, have been strong supporters of numerous charitable causes over the years. Of course, giving back to their hometown of Columbus always has been important. It's hardly a surprise, then, that the Memorial Tournament, which Jack founded in 1976, has not only produced great entertainment, compelling winners, and memorable moments, but also has served the people of central Ohio well beyond the boundaries of Muirfield Village Golf Club.

One of the truly elite fields in golf convenes when the Memorial Tournament is held June 1-7 at the course that Nicklaus designed and built, Muirfield Village. The game's top players compete for a purse of \$6 million, but the tournament is worth millions more to people who never hit a shot on Muirfield's manicured fairways.

First and foremost are the charitable contributions that the Memorial Tournament is able to generate for local charities. While Nationwide Children's Hospital and its Memorial Tournament Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) has been the primary beneficiary of the Memorial's charitable initiatives, it is far from the only entity to enjoy philanthropic assistance from the prestigious invitational event that celebrates its 33rd year on the PGA TOUR.

Others who benefit include Wolfe Associates, Fore Hope, The Ohio State University James Cancer Hospital and Solove Research Institute, the Shriners and the Lion's Club. Additionally, the re-institution of the Double Skins Game this year means a sizable donation for The First Tee of Columbus, thanks to the generosity of sponsor Morgan Stanley.

*(more)*

“Since the Memorial's inception there has been a focus on giving back to the central Ohio community and multiple charities,” says Dan Sullivan, Tournament executive director. “There is a natural connection between professional golf tournaments and charities. Locally, we work to benefit many charities that provide the Tournament over 2500 volunteers – organizations like Nationwide Children's Hospital, Shriners, Lions Club and many church, civic and school groups. Our mission is to provide many central Ohio charities with support and opportunity each year we conduct the Memorial.”

“Charity is an integral part of the PGA TOUR’s business model, and it’s a priority regardless of the economic climate,” said Ty Votaw, PGA TOUR executive vice president communications and international affairs. “Certainly during more challenging economic conditions, it can be argued that the dollars our tournaments raise for charity are even more important and more greatly needed.”

Charities aren’t the only organizations that receive an injection of welcome capital. According to a recent economic impact study, local businesses in and around Columbus receive a windfall each spring from the Tournament to the tune of about \$30 million annually.

The Memorial doesn’t stop at disseminating funds to worthy causes or giving a boost to the central Ohio economy. It engages the community in numerous ways and not just during Tournament week. The Clubhouse Kids Golf Tour In-School Program takes place each April and teaches the values and basic skills of golf to elementary school students. While during the month of May The Memorial's Bears for Children's program helps raise funds for the Memorial Tournament NICU at Nationwide Children's Hospital through the selling of a Limited Edition Bear. And on May 22<sup>nd</sup> the Memorial officially kicks off the 2009 Tournament with An Evening with Robert Randolph & the Family Band, an annual charity benefit concert for the Memorial Tournament NICU at Nationwide Children’s Hospital.

During Tournament week one of the most important and meaningful initiatives, begun in 2008, is the Tournament’s recognition of those who serve our country through Military Appreciation Day on Tuesday, June 2. Wednesday is designated as “Junior Golf Day,” when kids of all ages will be

admitted free and can enjoy a series of events featuring some of the top players on TOUR, including the Double Skins Game.

“We take great pride in offering the Memorial as a venue to bring families and friends together,” Sullivan said.

All-week Patron Badges to the 2009 Memorial Tournament are available to the general public. The badges, valid June 1-7, cost \$155 and include a complimentary three-day Practice Round ticket at no extra cost. As always, kids 12 and under can attend for free. The public may call the Tournament Ticket Office 9 a.m.-5 p.m. weekdays at 877-MT BADGE or visit [www.thememorialtournament.com](http://www.thememorialtournament.com) to purchase badges. Daily tickets for Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday practice rounds are also available. The cost is \$30, and they are valid for all three practice-round days.

The Memorial Tournament is held annually at Muirfield Village Golf Club in Dublin, Ohio, a suburb of Columbus. The Tournament, founded and hosted by Jack Nicklaus, is conducted each year with three goals in mind: to honor the memory of individuals living and deceased who have distinguished themselves in the game of golf; to showcase the world’s best golfers competing on one of the most challenging venues in the world for the enjoyment of spectators; and to benefit charitable organizations in central Ohio. For more information, call 614-889-6700 or visit the Tournament website at [www.thememorialtournament.com](http://www.thememorialtournament.com).

###